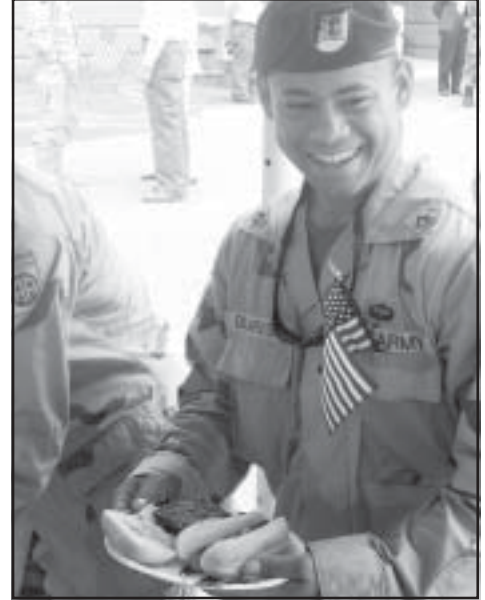


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"Supersize that Westover Welcome!"



America's favorite meal is a fun part of the welcome home for troops arriving any hour of the day or night at the Westover Passenger Terminal. At left, MSgt. Robert McGraw eats smoke and flips burgers on the grill. USO volunteer Marilyn Spofford serves an 82nd Airborne Division soldier. At right, an airborne soldier gives his appraisal of the surprise cook-out. The burgers, hot dogs and sausage are from community donations to the USO.

Recruiters tapping post 9/11 'sense of service'

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Go where young people are and you will find that service is in fashion, according to Westover recruiters. Values like service to country carry an added weight that they didn't have just a few years ago. Recruiters say they can see it in the faces of those who come through the door of their offices.

The men and women of the Westover Recruiting Office have a great package of benefits and training to offer. But, lately they are seeing the effectiveness of another great selling point. Potential new wing members want to serve in a large cause, to feel they are part of the national effort since 9/11.

"There has definitely been a cultural shift in the 18- to 24-year-old age range," said CMSgt. Ronald Tyson, Westover Senior Recruiter.

"It's not about money. They talk about service. They want to do something to serve. It's a different mind set. We're trying to tap into this," he said of the efforts to bring prior and non-prior members into the Patriot Wing.

Recruiters who have seen people motivated by a sense of service and patriotism suspect that it may reflect a younger generation turning away from earlier materialism. In recognition, Air Force Reserve recruiting emphasizes camaraderie and personal participation in a great effort. It

tells new members that "First you are a part of it, then it becomes a part of you."

The esteem in which the military uniform is held is seen by the fact that the recommendations of family and teachers are considered the number one influence on why a new member comes to a recruiter. That's ahead of national advertising and referrals from reservists.

When Chief Tyson goes to work in the morning he knows that to a large extent the future of the Patriot Wing rests in the hands of his 10 recruiters spread across New England and New York. There are almost 2,500 men and women in the 439th AW, but we are always looking for help. Today, one-third of wing members are eligible to retire, meaning potential gaps in our ranks.

The upsurge in patriotism and the higher profile of the military since the 9/11 terror attacks and the war against terrorism has helped the recruiters. But the recruiters know that the success of the wing depends on their success in getting out the word that there are opportunities here.

You would think that the Westover Recruiters' job would be a breeze. They are standing at the door of some great opportunities that seem to be an easy sell.

They can offer a non-prior service person who has no skills a seat in a tech school to learn, for example, aircraft repair,

medical or air transportation skills. For some career fields, including aerial port, medical and maintenance, they can offer an \$8,000 enlistment bonus for both prior and non-prior service people. Very few civilian jobs offer an unskilled new person that kind of bonus.

The recruiters offer a package that includes pinning on senior airman stripes after tech school, which means UTA pay of about \$150, good pay for anyone just starting out on a new job. Plus, the recruiters have several college assistance programs offering choices to students. In the Maintenance career field, the recruiters can offer prior and non-prior members the opportunity for ART positions. These opportunities for training, educational aid and monthly paychecks come at a time when jobs are hard to find for many and college bills are soaring.

If you look at the benefits, you would think that the hardest part of being a recruiter would be keeping people from knocking down the door. Ironically, the upswing in the desire to serve may have cost the wing some new members. Some potential new members have looked elsewhere rather than wait when there are delays for basic training or tech school slots.

(continued on next page)

Recruiters... (Cont. from front)

Patriot Wing members are all in uniform voluntarily. They can help the recruiters by letting others know why they choose to wear the uniform. The "Get One" program offers recognition for those who help spread the word about service and benefits.

Chief Tyson would like to see more wing members get to know the Westover recruiter in their community. It's good for the recruiter to feel supported and helps members. "If there's a slot in your shop, wouldn't you want to find someone you'd like to work with?" the Senior Recruiter said.

One thing Chief Tyson and his recruiters share with potential new members is a sense of service.

"I've always enjoyed seeing a young person coming up through the ranks, knowing that I opened the door. It gives you a lot of satisfaction. People know you did a good job and got them in something they like. They bring people to you," Westover's Senior Recruiter said.

The recruiters are at Ext. 2125.

Army sending troops to build roads in Iraq

An early sign of the American commitment to rebuild Iraq was on display in the Westover Passenger Terminal recently when Army engineers stopped here on their way overseas. While troops are coming home a group of National Guard heavy equipment operators are going to Baghdad to help build infrastructure.

Members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 724th Engineer Battalion were activated in March. They are primarily road builders, operating back hoes and front end loaders to clear and build. Others will do plumbing, carpentry and electrical work in Iraq.

The Guardsmen most recently deployed to Nicaragua where they improved roads and built a school and medical clinic.



(EDITOR'S NOTE: Security guidelines prohibit using last names of deploying reservists.)

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General Handy says Wing can be proud

General John W. Handy, commander of Air Mobility Command, recently saluted the performance of the men and women of the Patriot Wing in the national effort in response to 9/11. Following is a letter the AMC commander wrote to Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander.

The extraordinary contributions of the Air Force Reserve and your organization to the Global War on Terrorism cannot be overstated. Without your support, Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM could not have succeeded.

The 439th Airlift Wing has long been an essential part of mobility support to the warfighter, but your great people took it to an entirely new level for OIF. In the first four months of this year, you flew 179 missions, including 110 OIF missions carrying more than 5,937 tons of cargo and 2,409 passengers. Also, you supported 619 missions on the ground, including 482 flown by other units. Incredible! You can be proud of your achievements.

Please convey my personal thanks to each member of your unit and accept my best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,
JOHN W. HANDY, General, USAF

Pat Stats

Served since Feb. 2, 2003
6,345 passengers --- 2,195 aircraft
23,685,245 pounds of cargo
Info from MSgt. Jim Garrity, 42APS

Meals
13,457 hot meals served
Box lunches: 4,929
Info from MSgt. David Beauregard, 439SVS

Fuel since Feb.1
14,972,756 gallons of JP-8
Info from Jim Maloney, Fuels

Split disbursement is now mandatory

by Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

All military travelers must now select the split disbursement option on their travel voucher claims to directly pay their government travel card expenses, according to finance officials.

Split disbursement requires travelers to tally up their GTC expenses and authorize enough funds to be sent automatically to Bank of America to pay off their charges, said Michael G. Weber, Air Force travel card program manager at the Pentagon. Any remaining travel settlement will still be sent to the traveler's personal account.

Reservists who have questions on split disbursement can call Daniel McCarthy, Westover financial services officer, at Ext. 3460.

Top-Up offers school aid

Those eligible for both active duty GI Bill school aid and Tuition Assistance aid may be able to combine both to obtain up to 100 percent reimbursement.

The amount of the benefit of the "Top-Up" program can be equal to the difference between the total cost of a college course and the amount of Tuition Assistance that is paid by the military for the course. Top-Up is a VA program.

Information on Top-Up is available at www.gibill.va.gov/education/news/tatu.htm. If you have questions, you can call the Education and Training Office at Ext. 3440 or 2042.

Retirement briefings planned

The next military retirement briefing will be at 9 a.m. Sunday, June 8 in the Wing Headquarters Building.

Other briefings will be held on June 21, July 2 and July 13. To register or for more information, call Ext. 2588.

Express-ions

